

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /078 W
-----121481 261957Z /61

O 261900Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9118

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3009

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR UNSC AO ZA WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION INTO ZAMBIA CONTINUES

REF: LUSAKA 3006

1. MARK CHONA CALLED AT 2030 LOCAL TO INFORM ME THAT SOUTH AFRICAN
ATTACKS INTO ZAMBIA WERE CONTINUING AS OF LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST
26. HE IDENTIFIED VILLAGE OF SHATUTWA NORTHWEST OF SESHEKE AS
THE OBJECT OF A BOMBING ATTACK BY SOUTH AFRICAN JETS. HE
ALSO SAID THE TOWN WAS UNDER ATTACK BY SOUTH AFRICAN GROUND
FORCES.

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2. CHONA COMMENTED WRYLY THAT ATTACK WAS CONTINUING DESPITE
ENCOURAGING REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMIS-
SIONER ALLINSON. ALLINSON HAD INFORMED HIM THAT BRITISH
AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN TOLD BY BOTH BOTHAS THAT
SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE BEING WITHDRAWN. SCOT HAD QUOTED
PIK BOTHA AS GIVING ASSURANCES THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO

HALT THE INCURSION. CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE FOLLOWING ALLINSON'S AND MY REPORT OF OUR MEETING WITH CHONA THIS MORNING (REFTEL). CHONA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BOTHAS HAD PASSED WORD TO TROOPS IN THE FIELD TO WITHDRAW BUT WORD HAD NOT YET GOTTEN TO UNITS INSIDE ZAMBIA.

3. ALLINSON HAS RECEIVED A REPORT FROM TWO BRIT TEACHERS WHO RETURNED TO SESHEKE AUGUST 26 UNDER PROTECTION OF ZAMBIA MILITARY TO THE EFFECT THAT SWAPO CADRE ARE RETURNING TO THAT LOCATION. ZAMBIAN MILITARY HAD WARNED TWO BRITS TO GET THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS FAST BECAUSE SWAPO TROOPS WERE RETURNING. ALLINSON SPECULATES THAT SWAPO MAY BE TRIGGERING THE ONGOING FIGHTING THROUGH AN ATTEMPTED COUNTER ATTACK.

4. COMMENT: CLEARLY THE SITUATION AROUND SESHEKE IS CONFUSED, BUT WE DOUBT THAT SWAPO HAS PULLED ITSELF TOGETHER FOR A COUNTER ATTACK AGAINST SOUTH AFRICANS. KAUNDA THROUGH CHONA HAS AT THIS POINT GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS HE CAN GO IN APOLOGIZING TO SOUTH AFRICA AND PROMISING TO BE GOOD IN THE FUTURE. ZAMBIAN HANDS MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY CLEAN WHEN IT COMES TO DETERMINING WHO STRUCK WHO FIRST, BUT THE BALL NOW IS CLEARLY IN SOUTH AFRICA'S COURT. IT IS UP TO THE SAG WHETHER IT WANTS TO PROLONG THE PRESENT CRISIS TO THE POINT OF DAMAGING THE CHANCES FOR THE NAMIBIA PROPOSALS BEYOND REPAIR.
CLINGERMAN

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